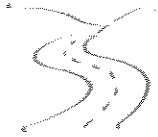




An Environmental Planning/Resource
Management Corporation

April 24, 2007



Ms. Macie Cleary-Milan
Director, Environmental and Planning
Transportation Corridor Agencies
125 Pacifica
Irvine, California 92618

VIA EMAIL AND MAIL
cleary@sjhtca.com

Subject: Potential Vibration Impacts on the Tidewater Gobies from Foothill
Transportation Corridor-South Project Construction, Orange County,
California



Dear Ms. Cleary-Milan:

This letter summarizes the findings of an assessment of the potential impacts on the tidewater goby within San Mateo Lagoon, which is located adjacent to the Foothill Transportation Corridor-South (FTC-South) project. The assessment included a review of the vibration standards for projects of this level by Caltrans. These standards are reported in the *Transportation- and Construction-Induced Vibration Guidance Manual - California Department of Transportation Environmental Program, Environmental Engineering - Noise, Vibration, and Hazardous Waste Management Office (Caltrans 2004)*¹.



The proposed pile driving for the bridge foundations of FTC-South would again occur when there is no or very low surface water flows in San Mateo Creek. Pile driving would not occur during or soon after periods of heavy rain when there is a high surface water volume in the creek. The piles would be installed when the water flows have receded and the creekbed is dry enough to allow the equipment into the area. There will be no pile driving activities within San Mateo Lagoon. There would, therefore, be no shock waves directly imparted to the water from the pile driving that could impact marine species such as tide water goby or southern steelhead since the piles will not be driven during high flow conditions when the species may be present.



Although pile driving activities are expected to be the greatest potential source for construction vibration, the pile driving activities will occur at no closer than 700 feet from the edge of San Mateo Lagoon. According to the Caltrans standards above, the vibrations generated by the pile driving activities will have dissipated to negligible levels at the lagoon. Therefore, the tidewater goby or the southern steelhead will not be subject to any vibrations as a result of project construction.

151 Kalmus Drive

Suite E-200

Costa Mesa

California 92626

(714) 444-9199

(714) 444-9599 fax

www.bonterraconsulting.com

¹ Caltrans. June 2004. *Transportation- and Construction-Induced Vibration Guidance Manual - California Department of Transportation Environmental Program, Environmental Engineering - Noise, Vibration, and Hazardous Waste Management Office (Caltrans 2004)*. Prepared for:


California Department of Transportation Noise, Vibration, and Hazardous Waste Management Office. Prepared by David Buehler, P.E - Jones & Stokes.

Ms. Macie Cleary-Milan
April 24, 2007
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If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at (714) 444-9199.

Sincerely,

BONTERRA CONSULTING

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann M. Johnston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ann M. Johnston
Principal, Biological Services